

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
April 17, 2007

Members present: Roger Thompson Kim Greenwood
 Gerry Kittle Barb Willis
 Phil Dechert Steve Revell
 Spencer Harris Craig Heindel
 Bernie Chenette Jeff Williams
 Rodney Pingree

Others present: Frank O'Brien

Scheduled meetings:

May 15, 2007	1-4 PM	Room 100 Stanley Hall
June 12, 2007	1-4 PM	Room 100 Stanley Hall

Review of agenda

Added a topic for update on change in well driller licensing.

Review of minutes

The minutes of the March 20, 2007 were reviewed and accepted.

Existing town permits

Spencer said he was still concerned about the status of replacement areas for projects with town permits. Spencer also said he remains concerned that town permits will remain in effect for construction after July 1, 2007 under one of the existing permit exemptions. Roger noted that while a town permit that showed a replacement area would not allow for construction of the replacement area after July 1st, the lot would qualify for a best fix approach.

Time of sale

The Agency is not supporting a mandated time of sale inspection, and the current draft of h.296 does not include this requirement. It is expected that a time of sale inspection will be done because the banks and title insurance companies will require it. The new definitions of failed system and supply will help people determine whether or not there is a failed system.

Addison County public meeting

The Agency participated in a public meeting in Middlebury on April 9th. Roger, Anne Whiteley, and Commissioner Wennberg gave an overview, and then answered questions from a panel and then from the general audience. Craig attended and reported that the meeting was pretty well received, though some people still believe the Agency promised in 2002 that there would be simple systems for clay soils.

h.296 issues

Kim reported on the VNRC presentation to the Senate Natural Resources Committee. VNRC has concerns about the proposed increase in slope from 20% to 30%, the reduction in minimum lot capacity from 3 bedrooms to 1 bedroom, and the reduction in lot capacity for those using a composting toilet. Craig asked if the TAC wanted to offer comments as a committee on any topics related to h.296. Phil noted that he would prefer that slope issues be controlled in zoning, rather in the septic rules. Phil did say that the one bedroom concept might be OK.

Well driller issues

Jeff gave an overview of the proposed changes related to replacement wells for single family residences. The Agency had been on track to create a special class of designers that would allow licensed well drillers to design the replacement well system. This ended up being a major concern for many well drillers. The expense and delay caused by the process are two big issues. The Agency met with the well driller's group and proposed to create an exemption that would be based on a well driller and the property owner signing a form that would be filed on the town records. The well would have to meet the requirements for location that are in the Water Supply Rules and the property owner would accept any problems associated with a well location that did not account for future replacement wastewater system areas. Bernie asked if anyone other than a well driller could be the designer. Roger reviewed the proposed statute and rules which specify that the form must be signed by a well driller.

Rodney said that we need to write up the variance process that a well driller will use to decide where to locate the well and any off-setting measures, such as grouting.

Reappointment of the TAC

A request was made to have the Secretary ask that the TAC Committee members be formally reappointed, as their term expired in January.

Treatment for potable water supplies

A subcommittee was formed to look at treatment systems. The committee will consider a protocol that would help select the appropriate system. There may be some “plug and play” options that could be used by non-engineers, but this might require revisions to the rules. Gail, John Beauchamp, Jeff, Rodney, Craig, and Roger will participate.

Items prioritized for discussion with high, low, and medium ranking

- 1.. Encourage I/A **low**
2. Soil identification vs. perc test **medium**
3. Colorado rule **low**
4. Permit by certification **low**
5. Curtain drain with presumption of effectiveness **high**
6. Field change policy **high**
7. Revisions to desktop hydro chart **medium**
8. Minimum amount of sand under a mound **high**
9. Grandfathered design flow and conversion of use policy **high**
10. Updating of design flow chart **high**

Recommendations made:

1. Revisions to mound sand specification
2. Lake water systems

Topics list - items not ready for drafting for inclusion in rule revisions

1. Drip disposal
2. Changing the 20% slope restriction to 30%
3. Replacing perc test with soil identification approach
4. Defining when effluent is no longer wastewater

5. Disinfection
6. Colorado Rule – reduction in isolation distance to wells based on construction methods
7. Certification and audit approach to permitting
8. Field change policy
9. Revise existing desktop hydro chart
10. Conversion of use policy, including grandfathered flows
11. Revise design flows
12. Increased loading rate
13. Wells shields across property lines
14. Whether less than 12” of sand should be allowed under mound systems

Executive Committee

John Forcier, Steve Revell, Lance Phelps, Phil Dechert, and Roger Thompson
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Bernie Chenette, Spencer Harris, Jeff Williams

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Allison Lowry, Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - John Forcier, Roger Thompson, Allison Lowry, Dave Cotton, and Barbara Willis.

Licensed designers - Spencer Harris, Alan Huizenga, and Gerry Kittle.

Well driller’s knowledge checklist - Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Roger Thompson, Bernie Chenette, Gail Center and Steve Revell.

Interested in the delegation rules - Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Phil Dechert, and Alan Huizenga

Drip Disposal – Frank O’Brien, Roger Thompson, Dave Cotton, Steve Revell, Alan Huizenga

Surfacing systems – Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Frank O’Brien, Roger Thompson, Bruce Douglas, Gail Center, and Brian Kooiker.